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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146714

LIMDIS JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MCAP, KS, KN, US
SUBJECT: SECDEF PRESS CONFERENCE: POSSIBLE ROKG-QUERIES

1. YOU MAY CONFIRM THAT INTERCHANGE BELOW TOOK PLACE DURING 20 JUNE 1 75 SECDEF PRESS CONFERENCE BUT SHOULD MAKE NO FURTHER COMMENT:

Q: WILL THE UNITED STATES USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA IF THEY INVADE SOUTH KOREA?

A: AS I INDICATED EARLIER, WE CANNOT FORECLOSE ANY OPTION. WE HAVE DEPLOYED IN KOREA THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS IS, I BELIEVE, WELL KNOWN. I THINK THAT IT WOULD DE-

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY NSN DATE 5/21/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

PEND UPON THE JUDGMENT OF THE LEADERSHIP UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BUT WE HAVE NOW GONE SINCE 1945 WITHOUT ANY NUCLEAR WEAPON BEING DETONATED IN ANGER AND WE WOULD STRONGLY HOPE THAT THAT HISTORICAL RECORD IS MAINTAINED. IF CIRCUMSTANCES WERE TO REQUIRE THE USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, OF COURSE, I THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED, BUT THE GROUND FORCES BALANCE IN THE KOREA PENINSULA IS NOT UNSATISFACTORY.

2. YOU SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT IN ANY DISCUSSION WITH ROK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IF PRESSED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR DETAILS, YOU SHOULD SEEK GUIDANCE AND HAVE PROPOSED RESPONSES CLEARED. SISCO